GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:3
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
DROUGHT AFFECTED STATES
DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States including areas which have been affected by the recent drought in the country:

(b) the details of estimates made of decline in production of rice, coarse cereals and pulses viz-a-viz the target fixed for these commodities for this year;

(c) the names of the States/Union Territories visited by the Central Team for the purpose;

(d) whether the said team has given its final report;

(e) if so, the findings thereof;

(f) the assistance sought by each State in this regard;

(g) the actual amount released and food-grains provided by the Government to each State;

(h) whether the Government have received any drought linked relief proposals in the Supplementary Report of the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices; and

(i) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (i): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO
(i) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 3 DUE FOR REPLY ON 18TH NOVEMBER, 2002.

(a) to (i): The following States have declared drought:-

Name of the State Area

Andhra Pradesh 925 out of 1126 Mandals in 22 Districts
Chhattisgarh All 16 Districts
Haryana All 19 Districts
Himachal Pradesh All 12 Districts
Jharkhand All 22 Districts
Karnataka 154 Taluks in 24 Districts
Madhya Pradesh 181 Tehsils in 32 Districts
Maharashtra 33 out of 35 Districts
Orissa 283 Blocks in 30 Districts
Punjab All 17 Districts
Rajasthan All 32 Districts
Tamil Nadu 19 Districts (formal declaration not made)
Uttar Pradesh All 70 Districts
Uttaranchal All 13 Districts
West Bengal 3 Districts

Besides, Gujarat has recently declared 13 Districts as drought affected. Jammu & Kashmir has submitted a memorandum for assistance without declaration of drought while West Bengal has not sought any assistance.

Widespread drought has affected agricultural production. As per the first advance estimate, Kharif food-grains including rice, coarse

grains, cereals and pulses may be 90.64 MTs as compared to 111.51 MTs during the last year, indicating a shortfall of 18.72% compared to last year`s production figures.

Central Teams have visited Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, HimachalPradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh which submitted Memoranda for assistancefrom the National Calamity Contingency Fund as per the following details:

(in crores)

State	Assistance Demanded
Andhra Pradesh	1210.90
Chhattisgarh	880.66
Haryana	1895.98
Himachal Pradesh	155.86
Jharkhand	1467.25
Karnataka	1562.85
Madhya Pradesh	790.38
Maharashtra	1730.61
Orissa	871.40
Punjab	3529.44
Rajasthan	7519.76
Tamil Nadu	1545.76
Uttaranchal	401.81
Uttar Pradesh	7539.79

Central Team for Jammu & Kashmir will finalise its report after receipt of certain information sought from the State Government.

The Reports of the Teams have been processed as per the procedure laid down in the National Calamity Contingency Fund Scheme.

To provide immediate assistance, however, Central Share of the Calamity ReliefFund (CRF) of the States due in November has been released in August itself.

Demands have also been raised by the States for allocation of food-grains, free ofcost, to generate additional employment. To begin with, 13.25 lakh MTs of food-grains have been allocated in addition to advance release of Central Share of CRF as per thefollowing details:

State	Foodgrains (in lakh MTs)	Advance release of Central Share of CRF (Rs. in crore)
Andhra Pradesh	3.00	81.885
Chhattisgarh	0.50	11.36
Haryana	0.25	33.615
Himachal Pradesh	0.10	17.98
Jharkhand	0.40	-
Karnataka	2.00	30.83
Madhya Pradesh	1.00	25.89
Maharashtra	-	64.995
Orissa	1.00	45.26
Punjab	-	50.735
Rajasthan	2.00	85.58
Tamil Nadu	0.50	42.435
Uttaranchal	0.50	-
Uttar Pradesh	2.00	60.475

The Commission For Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in its Supplementary Report on Price Policy for Kharif crops has recommended one-time bonus (special drought relief price) ranging from Rs.20 per quintal for paddy, groundnut and cotton to Rs.5 per quintal for coarse cereals (except bajra). The Commission has also suggested extension ofagricultural input subsidy currently admissible to small and marginal farmers in drought affected areas to other farmers subject to a limit of 2 hectares irrespective of the size of holdings, waiver of interest on loans obtained by farmers during 2002, restoration of fertilizer subsidy to pre-Budget 2002-03 level and removal of distinction between Above and Below Poverty Line families.While the recommendation on the special drought relief price has already been approved and announced, the other recommendations are under consideration.